

WHAT I CLAIM IS:

1. A remote control system having a receiver and one or more transmitters, each transmitter transmitting a respective identification code along with a command and the receiver having a list of identification codes associated with authorized transmitters, the receiver being operable in a learn mode during which it may receive a transmitted identification code for addition to its list, the improvement in which a transmitter can be placed in an operate mode and a teach mode, the transmitter transmitting its identification code in both modes but the forms of transmission being different in the two modes, and the receiver operates to add a received authorization code to its list only if the form of the received transmission is that of a transmitter teach mode.

2. A remote control system in accordance with claim 1 wherein the identification code of a transmitter is automatically changed when the transmitter is to have its identification code added to the receiver list.

3. A remote control system in accordance with claim 2 wherein a new identification code is randomly generated and cannot be traced to the previous identification code.

4. A remote control system in accordance with claim 2 wherein after the identification code of a transmitter is automatically changed, the form of transmission is that of the teach mode for a number of succeeding transmissions but with the same changed identification code.

5. A remote control system in accordance with claim 1 wherein whenever the transmitter is first operated in the teach mode following operation in the operate mode, the transmitter operates a number of times in succession in the teach mode.

6. A remote control system in accordance with claim 5 wherein whenever the receiver is in the learn mode, received transmitter commands are ignored.

7. A remote control system in accordance with claim 1 wherein whenever the receiver is in the learn mode, received transmitter commands are ignored.

8. A remote control system in accordance with claim 1 wherein a transmitter has a manually operated button and the transmitter mode of operation is determined by the length of time that the button is operated.

9. A remote control system having a receiver and one or more transmitters, each transmitter transmitting a respective identification code along with a command and the receiver having a list of identification codes associated with authorized transmitters, the receiver being operable in a learn mode during which it may receive a transmitted identification code for addition to its list, the improvement comprising means for placing the transmitter in an operate mode and a teach mode, the transmitter transmitting its identification code in both modes but the forms of transmission being different in the two modes, and means in the receiver for controlling the addition of a received authorization code to the receiver list only if the form of the received transmission is that of a transmitter teach mode.

10. A remote control system in accordance with claim 9 wherein the identification code of a transmitter is automatically changed when the transmitter is to have its identification code added to the receiver list.

11. A remote control system in accordance with claim 10 wherein a new identification code is randomly generated and cannot be traced to the previous identification code.

12. A remote control system in accordance with claim 10 wherein after the identification code of a transmitter is automatically changed, the form of transmission is that of the teach mode for a number of succeeding transmissions but with the same changed identification code.

13. A remote control system in accordance with claim 9 wherein whenever the transmitter is first operated in the teach mode following operation in the operate mode, the transmitter operates a number of times in succession in the teach mode.

14. A remote control system in accordance with claim 13 wherein whenever the receiver is in the learn mode, received transmitter commands are ignored.

15. A remote control system in accordance with claim 9 wherein whenever the receiver is in the learn mode, received transmitter commands are ignored.

16. A remote control system in accordance with claim 9 wherein a transmitter has a manually operated button and the transmitter mode of operation is determined by the length of time that the button is operated.

17. A method for operating at least one remote control transmitter that is associated with a receiver, the transmitter transmitting a respective identification code along with an operate command and the receiver having a list of identification codes associated with authorized transmitters, the receiver being operable in a learn mode during which it may receive a transmitted identification code for addition to its list, the method comprising selectively placing the transmitter in an operate mode or a teach mode, controlling the transmitter to transmit its identification code in both modes but the forms of transmission being different in the two modes, and controlling the receiver to add a received authorization code to the receiver list only if the form of the received transmission is that of a transmitter teach mode.

18. A method in accordance with claim 17 further including the step of automatically changing the identification code of a transmitter when the transmitter is to have its identification code added to the receiver list.

19. A method in accordance with claim 18 wherein a new identification code is randomly generated and cannot be traced to the previous identification code.

20. A method in accordance with claim 18 wherein after the identification code of a transmitter is automatically changed, the form of transmission is that of the teach mode for a number of succeeding transmissions but with the same changed identification code.

21. A method in accordance with claim 17 wherein whenever the transmitter is first operated in the teach mode following operation in the operate mode, the transmitter operates a number of times in succession in the teach mode.

22. A method in accordance with claim 21 further including the step of having the receiver ignore received transmitter commands whenever the receiver is in the learn mode.

23. A method in accordance with claim 17 further including the step of having the receiver ignore received transmitter commands whenever the receiver is in the learn mode.

24. A method in accordance with claim 17 wherein a transmitter has a manually operated button and further including the step of determining the transmitter mode of operation in accordance with the length of time that the button is operated.

25. A transmitter for a remote control system, said remote control system having a receiver that stores a list of identification codes associated with one or more authorized transmitters, the receiver being operable in a learn mode during which it may receive a transmitted identification code for addition to its list, the transmitter operating to transmit an identification code along with an operate command, the improvement in which a transmitter can be placed in an operate mode and a teach mode, the transmitter transmitting its identification code in both modes but the forms of transmission being different in the two modes in order to enable the receiver to add a received authorization code to its list only if the form of the received transmission is that of a transmitter teach mode.

26. A transmitter in accordance with claim 25 further including means for automatically changing the identification code of the transmitter when the transmitter is to have its identification code added to the receiver list.

27. A transmitter in accordance with claim 26 wherein a new identification code is randomly generated and cannot be traced to the previous identification code.

28. A transmitter in accordance with claim 26 wherein after the identification code of a transmitter is automatically changed, the form of transmission is that of the teach mode for a number of succeeding transmissions but with the same changed identification code.

29. A transmitter in accordance with claim 25 wherein whenever the transmitter is first operated in the teach mode following operation in the operate mode, the transmitter operates a number of times in succession in the teach mode.

30. A remote control system in accordance with claim 25 wherein the transmitter has a manually operated button and means for determining the transmitter mode of operation in accordance with the length of time that the button is operated.

31. A transmitter for a remote control system, said remote control system having a receiver that stores a list of identification codes associated with authorized transmitters, the receiver being operable in a learn mode during which it may receive a transmitted identification code for addition to its list, comprising means for controlling the transmitter to transmit an identification code along with an operate command, and means for placing the transmitter in an operate mode and a teach mode, the transmitter transmitting its identification code in both modes but the forms of transmission being different in the two modes in order to enable the receiver to add a received authorization code to its list only if the form of the received transmission is that of a transmitter teach mode.

32. A transmitter in accordance with claim 31 further including means for automatically changing the identification code of the transmitter when the transmitter is to have its identification code added to the receiver list.

33. A transmitter in accordance with claim 32 wherein a new identification code is randomly generated and cannot be traced to the previous identification code.

34. A transmitter in accordance with claim 32 wherein after the identification code of a transmitter is automatically changed, the form of transmission is that of the teach mode for a number of succeeding transmissions but with the same changed identification code.

35. A transmitter in accordance with claim 31 wherein whenever the transmitter is first operated in the teach mode following operation in the operate mode, the transmitter operates a number of times in succession in the teach mode.

36. A transmitter in accordance with claim 31 wherein the transmitter has a manually operated button and means for determining the transmitter mode of operation in accordance with the length of time that the button is operated.